



Teen Pregnancy, Birth, and Abortion Rates Aged 15-17 Clark County, 1992 through 2001

Why we should care:

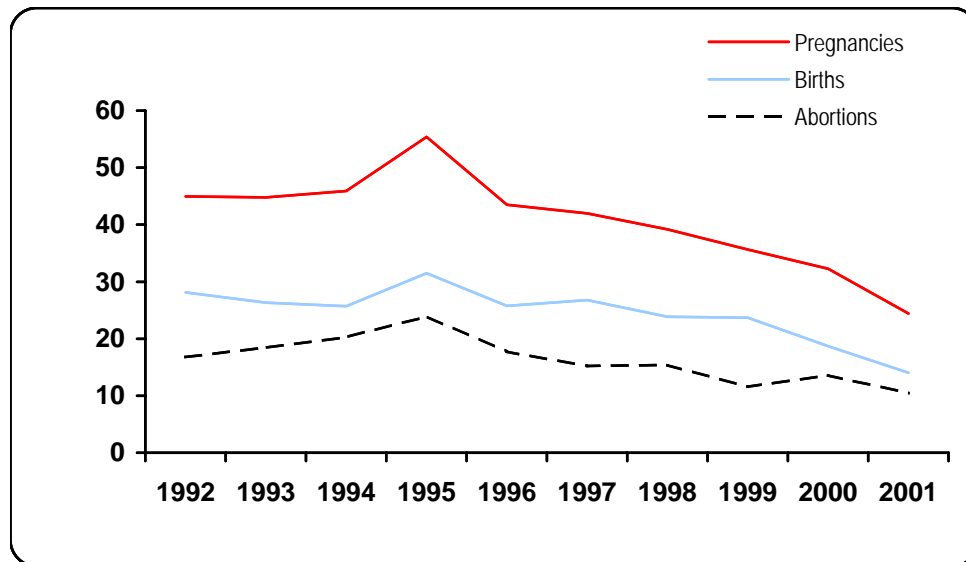
Parenthood at an early age can interrupt education or limit it to high school thereby decreasing opportunities for better jobs, housing, health care, and overall well-being for teens and their child(ren). Teen parents are more likely to smoke and have low birth weight babies who are at greater risk for health, developmental, behavioral, and social problems. Teen pregnancy and childbearing cost taxpayers an estimated \$6.9 billion annually in the United States. (1) For these reasons we focus public health efforts on preventing teen pregnancies.

Status:

- Clark County teen pregnancy rates continue to decline. Most pregnant teens, three out of five, chose birth over abortion in 2000 and in 2001. (2)
- The Clark County 2001 rate of 24 pregnancies per 1,000 adolescent females aged 15-17 is well below the national target of no more than 46 per 1,000 pregnancies. (2,3)

What we can do:

- Promote and support positive communication between youth and adults. Teens who communicate with their parents are less likely to engage in sexual intercourse and more likely to use contraception. (4)
- Support abstinence as the safest choice for teens. (5)
- Support increased access to effective teen reproductive health services. Such services include education that focuses on reducing sexual risk-taking behaviors and promoting correct and consistent use of contraceptives for sexually active teens. (6,7)
- Support active teen involvement in youth programs that value education and community service and help teens find jobs. (7)



Rates* per 1,000 females aged 15-17

Number of Events

Total Clark County Females aged 15-17

Year	Pregnancies	Births	Abortions	Pregnancies	Births	Abortions	Total Clark County Females aged 15-17
1992	44.9	28.1	16.8	238	149	89	5,296
1993	44.8	26.3	18.4	250	147	103	5,584
1994	45.9	25.7	20.2	270	151	119	5,879
1995	55.4	31.5	23.9	350	199	151	6,320
1996	43.5	25.8	17.7	297	176	121	6,831
1997	42.0	26.8	15.2	301	192	109	7,174
1998	39.2	23.8	15.4	291	177	114	7,424
1999	35.6	23.7	11.6	268	178	87	7,524
2000	32.2	18.7	13.6	245	142	103	7,597
2001	24.4	14.0	10.4	190	109	81	7,778

*The teen pregnancy rate is calculated by dividing the number of pregnancies among adolescent females aged 15-17 by the total number of adolescent females aged 15-17 and multiplying by 1,000 (constant). Similarly, teen birth and abortion rates are calculated using numbers of teen births and abortions.

See back side for sources.



Sources: (1) Maynard, R.A. (1997). "The Costs of Adolescent Childbearing," in R.A. Maynard (ed.), *Kids Having Kids: Economic Costs and Social Consequences of Teen Pregnancy* (285-338), Washington, DC: Sources: (2) *Vital Registration System, Annual Statistics Files, Births 1980-2001*. [Data file]. Olympia, WA: Washington State Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics. (3) Public Health: Seattle & King County, Epidemiology, Planning, & Evaluation. (1991-2003). *VistaPHw 2.3.2*, 2002 [Computer software for public health assessment]. Seattle, WA. (4) National Target, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, *Healthy People 2010* Target Objective 9-7: Reduce pregnancies among adolescents aged 15-17 to no more than 46 per 1,000. (5) Miller, B. (2000, April). Families Matter: A Research Synthesis of Family Influences on Adolescent Pregnancy. Resource Center of Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention: Journal Summary. (6) Washington State Department of Health. *The Health of Washington State, Adolescent Pregnancy and Childbearing*. Olympia, WA, 2002 Aug [cited 2002, Nov]. (7) Henshaw S.K. (1998). Unintended Pregnancy in the United States. *Family Planning Perspectives*, 30 (1), 24-29. (8) Kirby, D. (1999). Reducing Adolescent Pregnancy: Approaches That Work. *Contemporary Pediatrics*, 16, 83-94.